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File 14

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~ 25X1ACOUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Condition of the Austrian Provincial Newspapers

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. The circulation of the Communist newspaper, Salzburger Tagblatt, has dwindled to 6,000, while the Sunday edition receives a circulation of 7,000 copies. This circulation is being maintained only with difficulty. The central party bureau has refused to continue the payment subsidies and is demanding that the Communist Party newspapers in the province be self-supporting. Many business men, shopkeepers and industrialists in the Province of Salzburg subscribe to the Tagblatt only because of fear of the Communists and regard their advertisements in this paper as a kind of insurance device. The situation would become more critical for the Tagblatt if these circles were not to submit to Communist threats and blackmailing. However, even now, the financial situation of the paper is so critical that the party executive board in Vienna is considering a resolution to stop its publication. In an attempt to conceal the true circumstances such a measure would be characterized as a "concentration of forces" which requires the merger of the Tagblatt with the Neue Zeit, the Communist daily in Linz.
2. The Salzburg Socialist newspaper Demokratisches Volksblatt has a circulation of 8,500 to 10,000 which is about the same as that of the Oesterreichische Allgemeine Zeitung, the press organ of the Vereinigung der Unabhngigen (Association of the Independents) (VU) of the Province Salzburg. The Socialist newspaper has a monthly deficit of approximately 40,000 shillings which must be covered by the party. This paper also exerts pressure upon business circles in order to obtain subscriptions and advertisements. Moreover, the enterprises run by the party such as the "Union" Foodstuffs Factory of the Socialist cooperative organization contribute thousands of shillings every month in the form of advertisements. The

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No Change in Class. ☐Declassified ☒

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Auth. [REDACTED]

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Central Executive Board of the Socialist Party in Vienna is attempting to buy the Demokratisches Volksblatt through its Vienna Party Publishing Firm in order to bring it under its control. At present the paper is the property of the Salzburg provincial party board and is exclusively under its control.

3. The Linzer Volksblatt, the daily newspaper of the Austrian People's Party (OeVP) has been influenced greatly in the past by the Workers' and Employees' Association through its former editor in chief Gustav Putz. Putz is a respectable honest and progressive journalist with a regard for democratic principles. These traits are reflected in the character of the newspaper which has a circulation of 35,000. However the reactionary elements protested against Herr Putz's line and succeeded in getting him replaced by an exponent of the Farmers' League. 1954/1955

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